



HARVEST NETWORK

Constitution

I. VISION STATEMENT:

Harvest Network International is called to build an international network of ministers, churches, missionaries and para-church organizations.

We assist one another in equipping God's people:

1. To creatively reach and disciple the lost in our communities,
2. To intentionally plant new churches, and
3. To strategically partner with mission organizations and indigenous church leaders worldwide for the completion of the Harvest.

II. MUTUAL EXPECTATIONS:

A. Ministerial Privileges

1. Ministerial credentialing.
2. Intentional fellowship opportunities, continuing ministry training seminars and spiritual care offered to Harvest Network members through national assemblies, special conferences, and regional events arranged by Harvest Network.
3. Prayer for one another, our families, congregations, and ministries.
4. Opportunities for the full release of all five-fold ascension gift ministries and other ministry gifts on the Roster of Ministers.
5. Availability of spiritual oversight and counsel from Harvest Network International elders, approved ministry coaches and other resources for personal development and guidance for churches and ministries.
6. Support, counsel and on-site aid as requested by our members in times of crisis, transition and change.
7. Partnership with other members of Harvest Network members in the work of the Kingdom.

B. Ministerial Responsibilities

1. Live a life worthy of the call of Jesus Christ in humility, holiness, and obedience.
2. Faithfully pray for the Harvest Network International elders, ministers, missionaries, congregations, and ministries.
3. Regular fellowship at national and regional events planned by Harvest Network International.
4. Willing to receive the oversight and care of the Harvest Network International Elders and their designated care givers.
5. To fully submit to an investigation process prescribed by the Council of Elders of Harvest Network International concerning any credible accusations of illegal, immoral or improper behavior that is brought against a rostered member of Harvest Network International complying with the recommendations of the Council of Elders following the investigation.
6. Remit membership dues each year as invoiced by Harvest Network International's home office.

III. ROSTER OF MINISTERS:

A. Definition: The ministers of Harvest Network International shall be in accord with *Ephesians 4:11-13*: These include the Ascension Gift Ministries of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, and other ministers as recognized by the Council of Elders such as chaplains, missionaries, Christian counselors, ministers of reconciliation, those with healing ministries, those called to care for the poor, ministers of the worship arts and other ministry gifts.

B. Calling: To be on the Roster of Ministers of Harvest Network International, a minister must be called by the Lord Jesus Christ into the ministry of the Christian Church.

C. Application: To become a member on the Roster of Ministers, application must be made to the Council of Elders.

D. Training Experience: A minister needs to be adequately trained by one or several of the following processes: (*II Tim2:15*)

1. Has graduated from an accredited Christian seminary that teaches doctrine in agreement with the confession of faith of Harvest Network International.
2. Has been trained and prepared by an approved Christian college or Bible school.

3. Is transferring his/her credentials from another approved ordaining organization where he/she is in good standing.
4. Has a long term established and fruitful ministry record that is recognized by the Council of Elders.
5. Has been intentionally trained in theology and ministry skills by a fruitful, credible mentor over a substantial period of time.

E. Beliefs: A minister must accept the Confession of Faith of Harvest Network International.

F. Life-style: A minister's life must be in harmony with *1 Timothy 3:1-13*.

G. Membership: Discernment to accept a minister is the responsibility of the Council of Elders and membership is granted at their sole discretion.

H. Resignation: To be released from the Roster of Ministers, a simple letter of resignation to the Council of Elders is required.

I. Discipline & Removal: The option to exercise discipline, including the removal from membership, is at the discretion of the Council of Elders for the following reasons: A failure to maintain a biblical standard of moral, legal or ethical behavior and/or a departure from Harvest Network's Confession of Faith.

IV. MEMBER CONGREGATIONS:

A. Definition: A congregation is a local fellowship of believers who are called together for worship, mercy ministries, and proclamation of the Gospel, training of Christian disciples, pastoral care baptizing new Christian converts and celebration of communion in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. Application for Membership

1. Any Christian congregation who shares the vision of Harvest Network International may apply for membership by submitting an application form to the Council of Elders.
2. All member congregations shall be free to associate with other Christian organizations and networks as led by the Holy Spirit and in harmony with the Confession of Faith of Harvest Network International.
3. Discernment to accept a congregation is the responsibility of the Council of Elders and membership is granted at their sole discretion.

C. Responsibilities

Member congregations shall:

1. Preach, teach, and minister according to the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God and carry out the Great Commission.
2. Accept the Confession of Faith of Harvest Network International.
3. Conduct their own ministry to the highest standard of biblical integrity in all financial, moral, relational and legal matters.
 - a. Failure to do so may, upon review of Harvest Network's Council of Elders, result in the removal of the congregation from Harvest Network's Roster of Churches.
 - b. Any fees or awards resulting from legal action due to misconduct or malfeasance of a member congregation or its leadership shall be the sole responsibility of that congregation and in no way the responsibility of Harvest Network International.
4. Secure pastoral leadership from those who are, or are willing to become, ministers of Harvest Network International.
5. Financially support the work of Harvest Network International by remitting 2% of regular tithes and offerings to Harvest Network International on a monthly or quarterly basis.
6. Seek to provide adequate health insurance and pension plans for paid ministry staff.
7. Hold title to all property purchased in the name of the congregation, whether it retains or terminates membership in Harvest Network International.
8. Regularly send representatives to the Harvest Network International National Assembly.
9. Be released from Harvest Network International by sending a letter of resignation to the Council of Elders.

V. MEMBER MINISTRIES:

A. Definition: A ministry is a team of believers other than a local congregation bound together in a work of the Holy Spirit to use their gifts to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ or equip people to more effectively serve God. (*1 Pet 4:10*)

B. Membership

1. Any non-congregational ministry whose leader is an ordained or licensed member in good standing of Harvest Network International will automatically be considered a “Member Ministry” of Harvest Network International.
2. All member ministries, as led by the Holy Spirit, shall be free to associate with other Christian organizations and networks that are in harmony with the Confession of Faith of Harvest Network International.

C. Responsibilities

Member Ministries shall:

1. Preach, teach, and minister the Word of God and carry out the Great Commission.
2. Accept the Confession of Faith of Harvest Network International.
4. Contribute annually to the General Fund of Harvest Network International as led by God.
5. Participate in Harvest Network International national and regional events.
6. Partner with the congregations of Harvest Network International in the work of the Great Commission.
7. Be released from Harvest Network International by sending a letter of resignation to the Council of Elders.
8. Conduct their own ministry to the highest standard of biblical integrity in all financial, moral, relational and legal matters.
 - a. Failure to do so may, upon review of the Harvest Network Council of Elders, result in the removal of the leader(s) of that ministry from Harvest Network’s Roster of Ministers.
 - b. Any fees or awards resulting from legal action due to the misconduct or malfeasance of a member ministry or its leadership shall be the sole responsibility of that ministry and in no way the responsibility of Harvest Network International.

VI. NETWORK LEADERSHIP

A. The Council of Elders

1. Definition: A Council of Elders will serve as legal trustees and give oversight to Harvest Network International.
2. Calling: Elders will be raised up by the Holy Spirit in accordance with the following procedures (Acts 20:28):

- a. Qualifications:
 - i. All Elder candidates must be members of the Roster of Ministers of Harvest Network International.
 - ii. Must be mature in the Lord and live lives in harmony with I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
 - b. Nomination Process:
 - i. Nominations for Elders may be made by any rostered minister at any time.
 - ii. Nominations for Elder will be submitted to the Council of Elders who has the responsibility of appointing new elders.
 - iii. Upon unanimous recommendation by the Council of Elders, the names of nominated Elders will be submitted to all rostered ministers for further discernment and confirmation as follows:
 - 1) Rostered members will have thirty (30) days in which to prayerfully consider the nomination and respond.
 - 2) During these thirty days of discernment expressions of confirmation, concern or objections regarding an elder candidate shall be communicated to the Presiding Overseer at the address of Harvest Network International's home office.
 - 3) After the thirty days of prayer is concluded, the Council of Elders will jointly consider the input of the members of Harvest Network International and make a decision regarding the candidate's appointment to the Council of Elders or the withdrawal of the candidate's nomination.
 - iv. New elders will begin to function immediately upon unanimous appointment by the Council of Elders.
3. Terms of Office: Elders will serve until they are called home to glory, resign, incapacitation or are removed for disciplinary cause as outlined in Section III (I).
4. Responsibilities:
- a. Provide Spiritual Covering: The Council of Elders will serve as the spiritual covering for Harvest Network International. As such, they will fast, pray, and act so that the blessing, protection, wisdom, and vision of the Father rests upon all member congregations, ministries, and ministers. (Num 10:33-36)
 - b. Encourage Cooperation: will facilitate the expansion of the Kingdom of God by encouraging our member ministries to work together to fulfill The Great Commission according to Matthew 28:19-20.
 - c. Facilitate Fellowship: Harvest Network International is committed to building strong, spiritual relationships at all levels of leadership. To facilitate this process, the Council of Elders will coordinate a variety of conferences,

retreats and other events where fellowship, teaching, encouragement, testimony, and prayer ministry will be provided.

5. Media Relations: The Council of Elders will be charged with the responsibility of making any and all statements to the media regarding the ministries of Harvest Network International.

B. Presiding Overseer

1. Term: The Presiding Overseer shall be chosen from among the Elders by the Council of Elders for five (5) year terms. These terms shall begin on the first day of July in years ending in zeros and fives.
2. Consecutive Terms: The Presiding Overseer may serve an indefinite number of terms at the discretion of the Council of Elders.
3. Duties: The Presiding Overseer's duties shall be to:
 - a. Be the visible head of Harvest Network International and acting president of the network.
 - b. Preside at all meetings of the Council of Elders of Harvest Network International or designate a substitute in his absence.
 - c. Preside annually at the annual business meeting of Harvest Network International.
 - d. Establish and oversee a national office to insure the business of Harvest Network International is carried on with high integrity and in a professional manner.
4. Succession: In the event the Presiding Overseer resigns, is removed for cause or is incapacitated, the Council of Elders shall appoint an interim head until such time as the Presiding Overseer can either resume his duties or is replaced by action of the Council of Elders.

VII. Amendments:

Amendments to this constitution may be made at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Council of Elders.